

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 137

E.O. 11652

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGE)

SUBJECT:PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS FULL TEXT TO LES JANKA

1. HERewith FULL TEXT EDITORIAL WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, WASHINGTON STARNEWS HEADED: "KISSINGER'S RESIGNATION THREAT."
2. SOME THINGS ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID, AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S THREAT IN SALZBURG YESTERDAY TO RESIGN UNLESS THE WATERGATE-RELATED ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM ARE "CLEARED UP" WAS ONE OF THESE.
3. THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE ALLEGATIONS IS THAT KISSINGER WAS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN CANDID AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE LAST SEPTEMBER WHEN HE SAID THAT HE "NEVER RECOMMENDED" THE WIRE-TAPPING OF 13 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND FOUR REPORTERS FROM

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1969 TO 1971 IN AN ATTEMPT TO PLUG NATIONAL SECURITY LEAKS,

THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE WHITE HOUSE "PLUMBERS" UNIT AND THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT ONE OF HIS AIDES, DAVID YOUNG, HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE GROUP.

4. WHILE THE TRUTH OR FALSITY OF THESE STATEMENTS OBVIOUSLY HAS A BEARING UPON THE VERACITY OF HENRY KISSINGER--AND HENCE ARE A MATTER OF MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST TO HIM--IT SHOULD FIRST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THEY ARE HIGHLY PERIPHERAL TO THE WATERGATE SCANDAL AS A WHOLE AND TO THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS NOW IN TRAIN AGAINST PRESIDENT NIXON.

5. ONE CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH KISSINGER'S DESIRE, AFTER HIS RECENT RETURN FROM AN ARDUOUS AND SUCCESSFUL 33-DAY QUEST FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO DISCUSS THE INTRICACIES OF DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERING AND THE HIGH CALLING OF STATE-CRAFT RATHER THAN WHAT HE SAID OR DID NOT SAY TO WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS SEVERAL YEARS AGO. YET IT IS A FACT THAT KISSINGER'S STATEMENT ON YOUNG'S ROLE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CHALLENGED IN A COURT OF LAW IN A SWORN DEPOSITION BY JOHN EHRLICHMAN, AND THE SECRETARY MUST KNOW THAT HE CANNOT CLAIM IMMUNITY ON SUCH MATTERS FROM THE PRESS, EVEN WHEN SUCH QUESTIONS, AS HAPPENS OCCASIONALLY, ARE RUDELY PHRASED OR INDELICATELY PRESSED.

6. NOR ARE WE CONVINCED, AS KISSINGER CLAIMS, THAT HIS CAPACITY TO CONDUCT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY IS OR WILL BE COMPROMISED BY THIS TEMPEST IN HIS DIPLOMATIC TEAPOT. THE LEAGUE IN WHICH KISSINGER IS PLAYING IS NOT, AFTER ALL, COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF BOY SCOUTS, AND THE SECRETARY'S NOTABLE SUCCESSES ARE SUFFICIENT TESTIMONY TO HIS ABILITY TO MAKE HIMSELF UNDERSTOOD.

7. IN ANY EVENT, KISSINGER IS AN APPOINTED OFFICIAL, RESPONSIBLE TO THE PRESIDENT ALONE, AND SO LONG AS HE RETAINS THE CONFIDENCE OF MR. NIXON, WHICH HE CLEARLY HAS, HE OWES IT TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE NATION TO CONTINUE IN THE ROLE FOR WHICH HE IS SO OBVIOUSLY SUITED.

8. IN SHORT, IT SEEMS TO US THAT KISSINGER IS MAKING FAR  
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TOO MUCH OF THIS AFFAIR. WHEN THE MOSCOW SUMMIT CONFERENCE ENDS IN JULY, PERHAPS HE OUGHT TO TAKE A COUPLE OF WEEKS' VACATION TO RECAPTURE THAT SENSE OF HUMOR AND EBULLIENCE THAT HITHERTO HAVE CHARACTERIZED HIS RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS. FOR AS HE WELL KNOWS, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FROM EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS, EVEN WHEN THEIR TARGET IS A MAN WHO HAS SERVED HIS COUNTRY WELL, AND HAS A MISSION AND AN OBLIGATION TO

CONTINUE DOING SO. (END TEXT)

9. EDITORIAL CARTOON TO RIGHT OF ARTICLE SHOWS PRESIDENT NIXON IN CHEF'S GARB COOKING OVER HOT STOVE WITH "WATER-GATE" PRINTED ACROSS IT. DR. KISSINGER IS STANDING NEXT TO HIM PERSPIRING PROFUSELY. THE CAPTION READS, "DOESN'T SEEM HOT TO ME, HENRY;" SISCO

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